

**CHARLIE BAKER**  
*Governor*



**KARYN POLITO**  
*Lt. Governor*

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**CONTACT**

William Pitman, Governor's Office  
[william.pitman@state.ma.us](mailto:william.pitman@state.ma.us)

Felix Browne, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security  
[felix.browne@state.ma.us](mailto:felix.browne@state.ma.us)



**Baker-Polito Administration Awards \$5.7 Million to Combat Community  
Gang Violence**

*Grants to 15 cities and 11 partners will support outreach to at-risk youth, gang task  
force personnel*



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**BOSTON** – Today, Governor Charlie Baker and Secretary of Public Safety and Security Dan Bennett announced the release of \$5.7 million in competitive grant funds to communities and local partners to bolster their efforts combatting community gang violence. The awards were made to 15 communities and 11 research partners through the Shannon Community Safety Initiative, which targets gang violence in the Commonwealth.

“Shannon Grants support critical programming that provide education, training and employment direction for young people at risk of becoming involved in youth violence or gang activity,” **said Governor Baker**. “Our partnership with cities and local organizations enables crucial outreach to vulnerable youth, diverting them away from gangs and towards positive and productive futures.”

“The Commonwealth’s cities are on the frontlines of combatting gang violence, and the state-local collaboration supported by Shannon grants is an important tool to help them impact the lives of at-risk youth,” **said Lt. Governor Polito**. “We all have a role to play in protecting our young people from gang activity, and this funding supports important outreach that can keep teenagers on a path to success.”

“This funding enables my department to continue working with at risk youth and make a difference on the impact of gang violence in Boston,” **said Boston Police Commissioner William Evans**. “I want to thank Governor Baker and Secretary Bennett for their continued support of the Shannon Grant Program and the work of the Boston Police Department.”

The grants provide funds to communities that demonstrate high levels of youth violence and gang problems, a comprehensive plan to work with multi-disciplinary partners and a commitment to coordinated prevention and intervention strategies. Funded strategies include social intervention and opportunity provision programs, as well as gang task force personnel costs and overtime.

“We are thrilled to continue working in collaboration with law enforcement and community groups to support at-risk youth in the Metro Mayors communities,” **said Marc Draisén, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council**, which staffs the Metro Mayors Coalition (MMC), a group of 14 cities and towns who collaborate in addressing common issues confronting urban core governments. MAPC manages the grant for the MMC communities of Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, and Winthrop. “We thank Governor Baker and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security for their ongoing support of this important program to prevent youth violence and crime.”

“The communities and partners who take part in this program have given themselves

the tools necessary to make a serious impact on youth violence and gang activity,” **said Secretary Bennett.** “The disruption of illegal activity makes these communities safer while getting young lives back on track.”

Sites chosen by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to receive an award demonstrated high levels of youth violence and gang problems within their locality, submitted a comprehensive plan to work with multi-disciplinary partners, and committed to providing a coordinated prevention and intervention strategy.

The municipalities and research partners awarded are as follows:

#### **Shannon Community Safety Initiative Grant Sites**

Boston - \$1,114,789.29  
Brockton - \$329,190.60  
Fall River - \$384,235.07  
Fitchburg (incl. Gardner) - \$138,687.30  
Haverhill (incl. Methuen) - \$82,667.60  
Holyoke (incl. Chicopee) - \$413,071.88  
Lawrence - \$221,216.37  
Lowell - \$531,920.00  
Lynn - \$189,851.22  
Metro Mayors Coalition (incl. Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, Winthrop) - \$335,735.89  
New Bedford - \$382,068.35  
Pittsfield - \$73,297.29  
Springfield - \$552,526.23  
Taunton (incl. Attleboro) - \$68,562.07  
Worcester - \$494,824.84

#### **Local Action Research Partners**

Clark University - \$42,481.00  
Community Resources for Justice - \$ 42,492.39  
Institute for Community Health - \$41,838.61  
Kelley Research Associates- \$38,240.00  
North Shore Community College - \$27,943.40  
Roger Williams University - \$ 40,347.92  
Salem State University- \$31,687.72  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst - \$42,500.00  
University of Massachusetts, Boston - \$ 42,500.00  
University of Massachusetts, Lowell (Haverhill/Methuen Site) - \$ 24,993.83  
University of Massachusetts, Lowell (Lawrence Site) - \$ 24,993.83  
University of Massachusetts, Lowell (Lowell Site) - \$ 49,980.40

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